Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A Grouped Optical Add Drop Multiplexer (GOADM) comprising:

a tunable periodic filter for dropping or adding a group of optical wavelengths from/to a spectrum of optical wavelengths transmitted over an optical line so that adjacent optical wavelengths in the spectrum are initially spaced from one another by a basic wavelength step "*s*", wherein said tunable periodic filter is inserted in said optical line as a primary filter and is constructed to ~~filter~~ pick selected wavelengths of the group such that adjacent wavelengths of the group are spaced from one another by a group step being equal to *ks*, wherein *k* is an integer >1; and

at least one secondary filter connected to said tunable periodic filter serving as a primary filter, said at least one secondary filter being automatically tunable in response to tuning of said tunable periodic filter.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The GOADM according to Claim 1, ~~provided with one or more secondary filters connected to said periodic filter serving as a primary filter,~~ wherein ~~each of~~ said at least one secondary ~~filters~~filter is responsible ~~of~~for dropping or adding one particular wavelength from/to said group.

4-7. (Canceled)

8. (New) A Grouped Optical Add Drop Multiplexer (GOADM) comprising:

a tunable periodic filter for dropping and adding a group of optical wavelengths from/to a spectrum of optical wavelengths transmitted over an optical line so that adjacent optical wavelengths in the spectrum are initially spaced from one another by a basic wavelength step "*s*", wherein said tunable periodic filter is inserted in the optical line as a primary filter and is constructed to pick selected wavelengths of the group such that adjacent wavelengths of the group are spaced from one another by a group step being equal to *ks*, wherein *k* is an integer >1;

a first assembly comprising at least one secondary drop filter connected to said tunable periodic filter for dropping a particular wavelength from the group, said at least

one secondary drop filter being automatically tunable in response to tuning of said tunable periodic filter; and

a second assembly comprising at least one secondary add filter connected to said tunable periodic filter for adding a particular wavelength to the group, said at least one secondary add filter being automatically tunable in response to tuning of said tunable periodic filter.

9.(new) A Grouped Optical Add Drop Multiplexer (GOADM) comprising:

a tunable periodic filter for dropping or adding a group of optical wavelengths from/to a spectrum of optical wavelengths being members of an ITU-T grid transmitted over an optical line so that adjacent optical wavelengths in the spectrum are initially spaced from one another by a basic wavelength step "*s*", wherein said tunable periodic filter is inserted in said optical line as a primary filter and is constructed to pick selected wavelengths of the group such that adjacent wavelengths of the group are spaced from one another by a group step being equal to *ks*, wherein *k* is an integer >2.